



**STEVE SALAZAR**  
COUNCILMAN  
DISTRICT 6

**Committees:**  
Housing, Chair  
Economic Development  
Quality of Life & Government Services  
Trinity River Corridor Project

RE: BROADBAND INDUSTRY PRACTICES (Wireline Competition 07-52)

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

As the most senior member of the Dallas City Council and State President of the Mexican American Democrats, I am writing today to request the FCC not take up so-called "net neutrality" rules at this time and instead focus on achieving President Obama's goal of making sure every child can get online.

Progress is all around us in many areas of West and northwest Dallas. The positive changes we have been waiting for in District 6 are happening, and we are moving forward toward a more robust, inclusive city. Challenges remain, including making sure we are doing everything possible for our children to succeed and have a better life than their parents' generation.

In my district, more than half the adult population does not have a high school diploma (56% in District 6 versus 29% for the city of Dallas as a whole) according to Census Bureau estimates. Just over 15% of my district's adults have obtained college degrees, which is less than half the rate of the city as a whole. Clearly, we have work to do to ensure our children's success.

The Internet has become a crucial facet of modern American life, yet America consistently ranks around 15<sup>th</sup> in world broadband availability. Even in a city as wired as Dallas, there are still many children whose only access to the Internet is at school or a local library, where they must wait for computers used by many other people. Their eventual success, as students and as productive contributors to society, is at risk if we pursue public policies which do not make broadband more available.

At best, "net neutrality" rules do nothing to address broadband availability. At worst, they will make the goal of 100% availability harder to reach as companies choose not to continue investing in the technology necessary to keep the Internet growing. I understand the goal is an "open Internet," but I would ask, "Open to whom?"



Technology experts generally that data traffic on the nation's broadband networks will continue to grow dramatically, and it will take tens of billions of dollars of investment just to keep up with that demand. Without these investments, the Information Superhighway will resemble I-35 at rush hour, and everyone getting online will get their data, whether a streaming movie or an email, at the same snail's pace. Of course, this does not help get people online who are not online now.

As I see it, "net neutrality" does not address the fundamental problem with the Internet today, which is the fact that not everyone can get online when they need to. Once that basic problem is addressed, then the FCC can entertain the luxury of deciding how one person's traffic should be handled compared to someone else's. Right now, there are people with no traffic at all, and that's where we should focus our energies.

Steve Salazar – District 6  
Councilmember